

# The Magnificent New Residence of M. H. Walker



Views Showing Exterior and Interior of the New M. H. Walker Residence on Brigham Street.

—Photos by Harry Shipley.

THE M. H. Walker home at Brigham and Sixth East streets, which has just been completed and occupied, is perhaps the best example of mission architecture to be found anywhere in the intermountain region. It combines in its external appearance some of the features of the mission and some of the Moorish styles, and is a fine example of a home suitable for a warm climate. Its broad verandas and low heavy porticos are adapted for the extremes of summer weather, and at the same time afford ample protection from the winter blasts.

Standing on a site elevated above its surroundings, it faces north on the main residence street of the city, and commands from its front entrance a splendid view of the mountains to the east and north. From its south win-

dows it overlooks the entire valley and takes in the distant peaks of the Wasatch on the one hand and the lower rolling hills of the Oquirrh range on the other.

The approach is by a double row of gray stone steps which, uniting above, open directly on a broad veranda, enclosed for a space on either side of the entrance and handsomely tiled. The same veranda, open to the sky, is extended around the northwestern side of the house to the conservatory.

#### Hall is Weathered Oak.

Entering the door of heavy polished mahogany, the visitor finds himself within a reception hall plainly furnished and finished in weathered oak with panels of deep red. Comfortable window seats finished in red leather are on each side of the entrance, and a high-backed settle of generous proportions faces the doorway. This room leads by two doors to the right and left into the main hall, which, as in the old English homes, is the great hall or main and central room of the house. The wood here is weathered oak, and deep-set panels of bright red velvet give a brilliant and yet a subdued effect of light. The woodwork carried into the intricacies of stairways and railings is handsomely carved, and fine examples of grill work are seen on the upper landing. All the furnishings are in keeping with the red and the oak, and the colors are well brought out by a border of yellow embodying the tones seen in the art glass above. Directly opposite the entrance is the fireplace, set well into a stone twelve feet in length, forming the mantel and a deep recess at either end, holding an angle nook behind the grill work in the oak. The gray stone is handsomely carved and the homelike inscription, "East, west, home's best," occupies the central place.

Arising directly above this place are the high pipes of the organ which are ornaments in themselves, reflecting the lights from the art glass above. The hallway is open to the skylights, the roof having a marvelously beautiful effect of art glass in all the natural colors. A grape design forms the motive, and heavy clusters of purple fruit hang in the mellow sunlight with rich green vines and leaves interwoven. Toward the top the lights are brighter and the yellow effect is more pronounced.

But the feature of the home and the center around which it is built is the aeolian pipe organ, one of the finest to be found in the country, and the largest and most perfect example west of Chicago. The manual stands directly between the two doors from the reception hall, and is connected with the instrument itself by a cable seventy-five feet in length containing 200 wires. The organ is similar to any of the fine pipe organs, but in addition it has an

automatic attachment by which it can be played mechanically. It is worked by an electric motor in the basement, and is ready for use either mechanically or by a skilled musician at any time. There are 1,525 pipes varying from three-fourths of an inch to six-teen feet in length. It is the only one of its kind west of Chicago; a similar one being in the Aeolian concert hall in Portland, which is said to be not comparable to this one in many of the later improvements. Its capacity equals an orchestra of thirty pieces.

#### Furnishings of Other Rooms.

The dining room is a splendid sample of beautiful and harmonious furnishing. The wood is polished mahogany with panels of red burlay, and the furniture matches the wood. A fireplace of the red fire brick fills the central part of the western hall and opposite this is the buffet reaching to the ceiling. In each of the four cor-

ners is a china cabinet with doors of leaded glass in tulip design. Similarly decorated doors lead from the room to the conservatory.

A stairway leads from one side of the fireplace to the rooms above and the gallery leads around the upper floor to the suites surrounding it. Several elegant suites are arranged, finished in a different wood and fitted with baths and dressing rooms. Beyond this story again are the servants' rooms and several unfinished apartments. Indeed, a large part of the house is still in an incomplete state, the drawing room on the main floor being even now awaiting completion. A billiard room in the basement is to be finished later.

#### Works of Art on Walls.

It is the purpose of the owners of this home to furnish and adorn the place at their leisure, and as yet they have placed within its walls only such furniture as was necessary to comfort. However, some notable works of art

adorn the walls, and among them are examples from the best known artists of the present and the preceding century. A restful pastoral scene by Louis Japy hangs in the outer hall, and an exquisite marine painting by Ravenné lends a brilliant touch of color at the east end of the hall, and across from this hangs a portrait of the hostess done by Will Clawson, of local fame, and another piece of this artistic work hangs in the den. Down the hall at the other end are works by Perault, Barillot and Chretien. In the library hangs an exquisite painting by Paul Chabas, "Sunset at the Pool," and a marvelous painting of a villa by Pettijean is in fine light in the dining room. No picture has found a place on the walls which was not hung in the salon, and most interesting catalogues are in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Walker showing the date of the presentation of medals and the various honors accorded the artists whose works they are fortunate enough to possess.